

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 2, 2018

For all the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus Christ.
That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 103 (p. 821)

Hymn of Preparation*

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” Hymn 598

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, each of us going our own way and seeking our own path.

All: We depended on our own strength and stumbled. We leaned on our own understanding and made foolish decisions. We sought the things of this world and failed to seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and resolve our confused minds with your Word, redirect our divided wills with your law, restore our troubled consciences with your forgiveness, and comfort our anxious hearts with your presence.

All: We ask all this through our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

** Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 13:8-10

Congregational Response (Hymn of the Month) “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” Hymn 690

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27

Q. 72. *Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?*

A. No, only Jesus Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Q. 73. *Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of rebirth and the washing away of sins?*

A. God has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ wash away our sins just as water washes away dirt from our bodies.

But more importantly, he wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that the washing away of our sins spiritually is as real as physical washing with water.

Q. 74. *Should infants also be baptized?*

A. Yes. Infants as well as adults are in God’s covenant and are his people. They, no less than adults, are promised the forgiveness of sin through Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith.

Therefore, by baptism, the mark of the covenant, infants should be received into the Christian church and should be distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Tithes and Offerings

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Ruth 1

Congregational Response (based on Psalm 103) “10,000 Reasons” (printed on the last page)

Pastoral Prayer (based on Hebrews 13:20-21)

Sermon

“God’s Sovereign Grace Is Present
Even in the Worst of Times”
Ruth 1

Pastor Ben Muresan

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

“How Firm a Foundation” Hymn 94

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in One,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

LORD’S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The book of Ruth, though brief, reveals God’s gracious and sovereign purposes for his people. Even as Naomi and her family experienced suffering and loss, God was working providentially to bless them and accomplish redemption through his promised Messiah. The Apostle Paul, in Romans 15:4, teaches us that the Old Testament Scriptures were “written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” So as we read Ruth, we can draw application to our own lives by noticing the pattern of God’s goodness and faithfulness to his people throughout the ages. Sinclair Ferguson writes:

As Christians in the New Testament era, we know even more than the author of the book of Ruth about what God was planning and working out through the lives of its central characters. In this way, God is saying to us, “Do you see how I planted my footsteps in the sea in the lives of these my children in the past days? Let me show you how I did that. This is the kind of God I am; that is the kind of thing I do; and that is precisely what you may expect me to do in your lives, too. Trust me! I know exactly what I am doing.” As we learn from God’s Word in this way, it becomes profitable to us.

Questions:

1. For review, consider Hebrews as a whole and try to recall some of the main doctrines and themes in the letter. How have these truths affected your faith?
2. In Ruth 1:1 we learn that the events recorded in this account took place “in the days when the judges ruled.” What were those days like? Why is this an important detail?
3. Read Ruth 1:1-5. Why did Elimelech move his family to Moab? What were the consequences of this decision for him and his family? Why is it significant that Ruth was from Moab in light of the history of redemption (Matthew 1:5)?
4. Consider what Moab represents in the story. What is it about Moab that becomes attractive to us when our faith in Christ becomes difficult? What does Moab lead to according to 1 John 2:15-17?
5. Read Ruth 1:6-18. What do these verses reveal about the faith of Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah?
6. What did Naomi say about herself when she returned to Bethlehem (Ruth 1:19-22)? What do her words reveal about God’s faithfulness to his people?
7. In preparation for next Sunday, read Ruth 2. Do you notice any similarities between Boaz’s actions in this chapter and Christ’s actions in the gospels?

